

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to a species election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention are present in the claims:

Species I, characterized by Figures 14, 15A-15B; and

Species II, characterized by 11-13.

It is the Examiner's position that the species listed as Species I and II are patentably distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for species election, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Species II, which is readable on claims 13 and 14 along with generic Claims 1-12. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

Furthermore, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

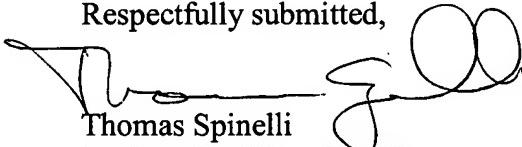
By means of the present Preliminary Amendment, claims 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11, have been amended to change their dependencies. No new matter has been entered into the disclosure in doing so.

Lastly, new claims 16 and 17 have been added by way of the present preliminary amendment. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 16 and 17 are also elected for continued prosecution herewith. New claims 16 and 17 are fully supported in the

original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 16 and 17.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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